Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 228489
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228489

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GW

SUBJECT: HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION

REF: MUNICH 4279

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO GLENN FERGUSON FROM AMBASSADOR JOHN GRONOUSKI, CHAIRMAN, BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING:

QUOTE: JOHN HAYES' AND MY CONCERN RELATES TO RFE/RL STATEMENT REQUESTED BY FRG AUTHORITIES BEFORE NEW TRANS-MITTER LICENSE CAN BE ISSUED. AS YOU KNOW, THIS QUESTION OF TRANSMITTER LICENSE HAS BEEN PENDING FOR OVER A YEAR. WHEN I VISITED BONN IN JUNE I WAS TOLD OF NEW REQUIREMENT AND AGREED THAT THIS WOULD NOT PRESENT ANY DIFFICULTY. UPON READING NEW REQUIREMENT AND DISCUSSING IT WITH HAYES, WE ARE PERSUADED THAT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WITH 1955 SUBMISSION -- THE MANDATE TO SEPARATE NEWS AND COMMENTARIES AND TO IDENTIFY EXPRESSIONS OF PERSONAL OPINIONS -- IS INOFFENSIVE, IS REQUIRED BY GERMAN LAW,
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AND SHOULD IN FACT BE PART OF OUR GUIDELINES. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT A DELAY IN SENDING IN THE REQUIRED STATEMENT WILL RAISE UNNECESSARY AND UNWARRANTED QUESTIONS

IN GERMAN CIRCLES, PARTICULARLY BY THOSE WHO WISH US ILL AND WE THEREFORE URGE YOU TO SIGN STATEMENT. JOHN HAYES DOES NOT SEE THE NECESSITY NOR DESIRABILITY

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OF BRINGING THIS TO RFE/RL BOARD. HE IS RELUCTANT TO DO SO BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING. I HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED IT WITH NSC AND WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- ALL OF WHOM URGE IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE WITH FRG REQUEST AND SEE ONLY PROBLEMS IN FURTHER DELAY.

HAYES AWARE OF QUESTION RAISED BY LEONARD MARKS AND WILL BRING MARKS UP-TO-DATE UPON HIS RETURN TO U.S. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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